

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

August 3, 2022

The Honorable Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Re: Transparency in Poultry Grower Contracting and Tournaments; Proposed Rule; RIN 0581-AE03; 87 *Fed. Reg.* 34980 (June 8, 2022); Poultry Growing Tournament Systems: Fairness and Related Concerns; Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Request for Comments; RIN 0581-AE18; 87 *Fed. Reg.* 34814 (June 8, 2022).

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

As representatives of states with substantial chicken operations, we respectfully request that the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) grant an extension of the comment period for the above-referenced proposed rule and Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR). We believe an extension is needed for stakeholders to consider and properly analyze the proposal.

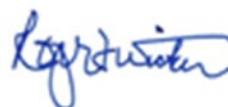
The proposed rule, which would establish additional disclosure requirements for performance-based poultry grower compensation arrangements, and the ANPR, which seeks extensive comments and information to inform policy development and future rulemaking proposals regarding the use of poultry grower ranking systems, would both have wide-ranging effects on current industry operations. Therefore, they should be considered together. Indeed, it is difficult to ascertain the full effects of the proposed rule without simultaneously having the chance to consider USDA's other forthcoming rules. As you know, the chicken industry is essential to our domestic food security and to global food security because of our significant exports. We therefore urge you to let stakeholders comment on all proposed rules together and to take steps to mitigate any interruptions to the poultry supply chain.

Thank you for your attention to this request. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like more information or have any questions.

Sincerely,



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Roger F. Wicker
United States Senator

/s/ Thomas R. Carper
Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



John Boozman
United States Senator



Thom Tillis
United States Senator



Cindy Hyde-Smith
United States Senator



Lindsey O. Graham
United States Senator



Richard Burr
United States Senator

Cc: S. Brett Offutt, Chief Legal Officer and Policy Advisor, Packers and Stockyards
Division, USDA Agricultural Marketing Service Fair Trade Practices Program

Andy Green, Senior Advisor for Fair and Competitive Markets, USDA